

It's an important forum. By advancing the national dialog on the future of energy, you're helping us support the cause of energy efficiency. And that's critical for our economy, and it's critical for the future of this Nation.

You see, increasing energy efficiency will help consumers save money. Increasing energy efficiency will leave American businesses with more capital, will make American businesses more competitive. Increasing energy efficiency will help reduce our energy consumption and to help us achieve a vital national goal, and that is making America less dependent on foreign sources of energy. And that's what I want to talk to you all about today, a strategy to make us less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

I want to thank John. I want to thank Bob Catell, who is the event host. He's the chairman of the United States Energy Association. I want to thank Betty Arndt. I want to thank Barry Worthington. Thank you both for setting this event up. I want to thank the Assistant Secretary, David Garman, of the Department of Energy, for being here. I appreciate Pat Wood, the FERC Chairman. Where are you, Pat? There he is, my fellow Texan. How many children you got now? [*Laughter*] Three, one on the way? [*Laughter*]

I want to thank your fellow commissioners—Commissioner Brownell, Commissioner Kelliher, Commissioner Kelly—for joining you all. Thank you all for coming. Thanks for serving. Appreciate what you do.

I'm optimistic about this country's future, and Americans have a reason to be optimistic as well. Over the last 2 years, we have added more than 3.5 million new jobs. More Americans are working today than ever before in our Nation's history. Homeownership in America is at an alltime high, and that's good. We want more people owning something in America. We want more small-business owners. We want more homeowners. I, personally, think it would

be good for the country if people had more control over their retirement accounts.

Small businesses are flourishing. Factory output is growing. Exports are at their highest level ever. Families are taking home more of what they earn. Because of our policies, our economy is growing and creating more opportunity and increased prosperity for millions of citizens, and that's good news.

And to build on this success and to keep this economy growing. We need an affordable, reliable supply of energy, and that starts with pursuing policies to make prices reasonable at the pump. Today, millions of American families and small businesses are hurting because of high gasoline prices. If you're trying to meet a payroll or trying to meet a family budget, even small increases at the pump have a big impact on your bottom line. For the sake of American families and American workers, this country must take action now to deal with the causes of rising gasoline prices.

The primary cause of rising gasoline prices is that the global demand for oil is growing faster than global supply. Here in America, we have become too dependent—too dependent—on the increasingly limited supply of foreign oil for our own energy needs. For many years, most of the crude oil refined in American—into gasoline in America came from domestic oil fields. In 1985, 75 percent of the crude oil used in U.S. refineries came from American sources, only about 25 percent came from abroad. Today, that equation is nearly reversed. In a relatively quick period of time, only about 35 percent of the crude oil used in U.S. refineries is produced here at home—think about that—while about 65 percent comes from foreign countries like Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Canada. To compound the problem, countries with rapidly growing economies like India and China are competing for more of the world oil supply, and that drives up the global price of oil, and that makes prices of gasoline here at home even higher for

our families and small businesses and farmers.

Our dependence on foreign oil is like a foreign tax on the American Dream, and that tax is growing every year. My administration is doing all we can to help ease the problem. We're encouraging oil-producing countries to maximize their production, so more crude oil is on the market to meet the demands of the world. And we're going to make sure that consumers here at home are treated fairly. There's not going to be any price gouging here in America.

But people got to understand our dependence on foreign oil didn't develop overnight, and it's not going to be fixed overnight. To solve the problem, our Nation needs a comprehensive energy policy. That's why one of the first things I did when I came to office 4 years ago was to develop a new energy strategy for America. And in my first months in office, I sent Congress a plan to put our Nation on the path to greater energy independence. For 4 years, the United States Congress has discussed and debated the plan with no result. So earlier this year, I sent a clear message to Congress: Get a good energy bill on my desk before the August recess. Now is the time for them to act.

The House has acted, and I want to thank the leadership in the House. And the Senate's turn is now up. It's now their time to get something done. And they're beginning the debate on the energy bill this week. And my advice is they ought to keep this in mind: Summer is here; temperatures are rising; and tempers will really rise if Congress doesn't pass an energy bill.

The American people know that an energy bill will not change the price of gas immediately, but they're not going to tolerate inaction in Washington as they watch the underlying problems grow worse. We have a responsibility to confront problems. The American people expect us to act in good faith here in Washington. To address the root causes of high gas prices, we need

to take four important steps toward one vital goal, and that is making America less dependent on foreign sources of oil.

The first step toward making America less dependent on foreign oil is to improve conservation and efficiency. That's why this conference is an important conference, and I want to thank you for holding it. Hybrid vehicles are one of the most promising technologies immediately available to consumers. There are some interesting things taking place in the market place that will help achieve this part, this step of less dependency on foreign sources of oil. Hybrid automobiles are powered by a combination of gasoline and electricity. Some can travel twice as far on a gallon of fuel as gasoline-only vehicles. Hybrids produce lower emissions. To help consumers conserve gas and protect the environment, I proposed that every American who purchases a hybrid vehicle receive a tax credit of up to \$4,000. We're trying to encourage people to make right choices in the market place that will make us less dependent on foreign sources of oil and to help improve our environment.

We are also encouraging automakers to produce a new generation of modern, clean diesel cars and trucks. My administration has issued new rules that will remove more than 90 percent of the sulfur in diesel fuel by 2010. Clean diesel technology will allow consumers to travel much farther on each gallon of fuel without the smoke and pollution of past diesel engines. To encourage this promising technology, Congress should extend the tax incentives for the purchase of hybrid vehicles to clean diesel cars and trucks. You see, America leads the world in technology, and we need to use that technology to lead the world in fuel efficiency.

The second step toward making America less dependent on foreign oil is to produce and refine more crude oil here at home in environmentally sensitive ways. By far the most promising site for oil in America is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in

Alaska. Technology now makes it possible to reach the oil reserves in ANWR by drilling on just 2,000 of the 19 million acres. Developing this tiny area could eventually yield up to a million barrels of oil a day, and that million barrels of oil a day would be—would make us less dependent on foreign sources of energy. Thanks to technology, we can reach ANWR's oil with almost no impact on land or local wildlife. To make America less dependent, Congress needs to pass a progrowth, projobs, proenvironment development of ANWR. It makes sense. It is an important part of a comprehensive strategy.

We also need to improve our ability to refine crude oil into gasoline and other products. Do you realize this? There hasn't been a single new refinery built in America since 1976. To meet our growing demand for gasoline, America now imports about a million barrels of refined gasoline every day. That means about one out of every nine gallons of gas you get at the pump is refined in a foreign country. Not only are we dependent on foreign sources of oil, we're becoming more dependent on foreign sources of gasoline.

To help secure our gasoline supply and lower prices at the pump, we need to encourage existing refineries to expand their capacity. So the Environmental Protection Agency is working to simplify rules and regulations for refinery expansion, and I'm confident we can do so and maintain strict environmental safeguards. We also need to build new refineries. So I've directed Federal agencies to work with States to encourage the construction of new refineries on closed military facilities and to simplify the permitting process for these new refineries. By promoting reasonable regulations, by being wise with policy, we can refine more gasoline at home, and that will make us less reliant on foreign sources of gasoline.

The third step toward making America less dependent on foreign oil is to develop new alternatives to gasoline and diesel. Two years ago, my administration launched an

ambitious program called the Hydrogen Fuel Initiative. We've already dedicated \$1.2 billion over 5 years to this effort to develop hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles. Last month, I visited a hydrogen fueling station right here in Washington. I saw cars and vans that run on hydrogen fuel cells instead of gasoline. And these cars and vans emit pure water instead of exhaust fumes. The energy bill will authorize additional funds for this vital initiative. With bold investments now, we can begin to replace a hydrocarbon economy with a hydrogen economy and make it possible for our children, today's children to take the driver's test in a completely pollution-free vehicle.

We've got to be aggressive about finding alternative sources of fuel. And one such source is ethanol. Ethanol comes from corn, and we're pretty good about growing corn here in America. We've got a lot of good corn growers. Therefore, it makes sense to promote ethanol as an alternative to foreign sources of oil. Ethanol can be mixed with gasoline to produce a clean, efficient fuel. In low concentrations, ethanol can be used in any vehicle. And with minor modifications, vehicles can run on a fuel blend that includes about 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. Ethanol helps our farmers find new markets and helps us replace foreign crude oil. I mean, I like the idea of spending money on research to make ethanol more feasible, so that some day an American President says, "Show me the crop report." [Laughter] As opposed to, "How many barrels of crude oil are we importing?"

By the way, we can get the same type of alternative fuel from soybeans. It's called biodiesel, and that's a promising source of energy. I went to a biodiesel refinery in Virginia that is making fuel from soybean oil. Other producers are making biodiesel, by the way, from waste products like recycled cooking grease. Biodiesel can be used in any vehicle that runs on regular diesel. So as you get more clean diesel engines

in America, biodiesel becomes an alternative fuel for them. It burns more completely and produces less air pollution than gasoline or regular diesel.

It makes sense for the energy bill to encourage renewable sources of energy that are becoming much more practical and much more economic in today's world. To encourage greater use of ethanol and biodiesel, my administration supports a flexible, cost-effective renewable fuel standard as a part of the energy bill. This proposal would require fuel producers to include a certain percentage of ethanol and biodiesel in their fuel. I proposed \$84 million in the 2006 budget for ongoing research into advanced technologies that can produce ethanol from farms, forests, or even municipal waste dumps. We've got a chance here as we go forward to do something smart, and that is figure out ways to use that which we grow or that which we dispose of to replace foreign sources of oil.

The fourth step toward making America less dependent on foreign oil is to help other nations use technology to reduce their own demand for crude oil and gasoline. Much of the current projected rise in gasoline prices is due to rising oil consumption in Asia. These are emerging economies that are consuming more natural resources, one of which is oil. As Asian economies grow, their demand for oil is growing much faster than global supply is growing. And that drives up price. It's in our interest to help countries like India and China become more efficient users of hydrocarbons. That will help take the pressure off global supply, take the pressure off gasoline prices here at home.

At the G-8 meeting next month, I'll ask other world leaders to join America in helping developing countries find practical ways to use cleaner, more efficient energy technologies. When we lower the global demand for oil, Americans will be better off at the gas pump and future generations will breathe cleaner air too.

As we make America less dependent on foreign oil, we are pursuing a comprehensive strategy to address other energy challenges facing our country. Along with high gas prices, many families and small businesses are confronting rising electricity bills. Summer air conditioning costs are going to make it even more expensive to power homes and office buildings.

To help our consumers save on their power bills, we must continue expanding our efforts to improve conservation and efficiency. The energy bill would extend the Energy Star program. This program encourages the sale and production of energy-efficient products, like superefficient refrigerators that use less energy than a 75-watt light bulb. Advances in efficiency are saving American consumers more money. In 2001, the average American family spent about half as much to heat its home as it did in 1978. One day, technologies like solar panels and high-efficiency appliances and advanced insulation could even allow us to build zero-energy homes that produce as much energy as they consume.

We must also harness the power of technology to help us deliver electricity more efficiently. For example, the Department of Energy is funding research and development of superconducting power lines. It's important research because it will enable us to more efficiently move electricity. Really what we need to do is bring our electricity grid into the 21st century. Congress should make reliability standards for electric utilities mandatory, not optional. We have modern interstate grids for our phone lines and highways; it's time for this country to build a modern electricity grid so we can protect American families and businesses from damaging power outages.

To power our growing economy, we also need to generate more electricity. Electricity comes from three principal sources, coal, natural gas, and nuclear power. To ensure that electricity is affordable and reliable, America must improve our use of all three.

Coal is our Nation's most abundant energy source, and America is blessed with enough coal to last for the next 250 years. Yet coal presents an environmental challenge. So when I ran for President in 2000, I pledged to invest \$2 billion over 10 years for research into clean coal technologies to remove virtually all pollutants from coal-fired powerplants. My budget for 2006 brings clean coal funding to 1.6 billion over 5 years—puts us on pace to exceed my pledge. And there's no doubt in my mind we can succeed. There's no doubt in my mind this great country can use technology to be able to burn coal in environmentally friendly ways.

Congress needs to pass the Clear Skies Initiative, which is a reasonable—it's a good piece of legislation. It's sound policy. They need to pass it. And by passing it, not only will we clean the environment, but it will result in tens of billions of dollars in clean coal investments by private companies. America must invest in clean coal technology and continue to do so, to harness the power of an abundant resource.

Improving our electricity supply also means making better use of natural gas. The United States has the sixth largest proven reserves of natural gas in the world. We need to increase environmentally responsible production of natural gas from our Federal lands. And to further increase our natural gas supply, Congress needs to make clear Federal authority to choose sites for new receiving terminals for liquefied natural gas.

We need to expand our Nation's use of nuclear power. America has not ordered a nuclear powerplant since the 1970s. France, by contrast, has built 58 plants in the same period of time, and today, France gets more than 78 percent of its electricity from safe, low-cost nuclear power. It's time for America to start building again. So I've directed the Department of Energy to work with Congress to help pass legislation that will reduce uncertainty in the nuclear plant licensing process. We're also working with

Congress to provide other incentives, such as Federal insurance to protect the builders of the first four new plants against lawsuits, bureaucratic obstacles, and other delays beyond their control. To build a secure energy future for America, we need to expand production of safe, clean nuclear power.

So I appreciate you letting me come by today to talk about a comprehensive strategy, a comprehensive way forward to achieve one overriding goal, and it's an important goal to achieve. And the goal is to address the root causes of higher energy costs by diversifying our energy supply and reducing our dependence of foreign sources of energy.

For the past 4 years, Americans have been paying the price for delaying a national energy policy. They've been watching their power bills go up. They've seen blackouts. And they're watching the price of gasoline rise at the pump. The energy bill will help us make better use of the energy supplies we now have and will make our supply of energy more affordable and more secure for the future. To make this promise real tomorrow, we've got to act today. Now is the time. Now is the time to stop the debate and the partisan bickering and pass an energy bill.

I look forward to working with Members of the Congress to come up with reasonable compromises on outstanding issues such as MTBE. But for the sake of national security and for the sake of economic security, the Congress needs to pass an energy bill now.

Now is the time to act. Now is the time to put a strategy—we should have done this 10 to 15 years ago. Now is the time to move. And history shows that American innovation is never in short supply. That's the good news. We're going to harness our innovative spirit in this new century, and by doing so, we will leave our children and grandchildren a cleaner, a healthier, and a more secure America.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. In his remarks, he referred to John M. Barth, chairman and chief executive officer, and Betty L. Arndt, vice president of communications, Johnson Con-

trols, Inc.; Robert B. Catell, chairman and chief executive officer, KeySpan Corp.; and Barry K. Worthington, executive director, United States Energy Association. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Message on the Observance of Juneteenth *June 15, 2005*

I send greetings to all Americans celebrating Juneteenth.

Major General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, bringing the news that the Civil War had ended and that the Emancipation Proclamation, signed over 2 years earlier, had declared all slaves to be free persons. This historic day is celebrated to remember the end of slavery. Emancipation demonstrated our country's belief in liberty and equality for every citizen, and was a profound recognition that each and every American has rights, dignity, and matchless value.

One hundred forty years later, the Juneteenth observance continues to remind us of our country's founding principles of liberty and justice for all. As we mark the

anniversary of the end of servitude, we also recognize the many contributions of African Americans to our culture. African Americans have helped shape our country's character, enhanced the diversity that makes America strong, and contributed to the vitality, success, and prosperity of our Nation. Juneteenth is a day that stands for the dignity and equality of all citizens, regardless of race, so that all may share the blessings of freedom that America provides.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

## Remarks at the Congressional Picnic *June 15, 2005*

Thank you all for coming tonight. I think we're going to have a pretty special picnic here on the South Lawn. Laura and Lynne and Dick and I are really pleased you're here. It's a chance to say thanks to the Members of Congress and their families.

I appreciate the Marine Band. I hope you've enjoyed them as much as I've enjoyed listening to them upstairs.

So, enjoy the food. In about 45 minutes or so, we're going to have a celebration

of American musicals, at the tent down there below. We hope you join us. WETA is going to film it, so make sure you look pretty. [*Laughter*]

But thanks for coming. May God bless you all and your families. Glad you're here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:56 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

## Remarks Following the Entertainment at the Congressional Picnic June 15, 2005

Laura and I are pleased that you came to our backyard picnic. [Laughter] We really want to thank the Speaker, Speaker Hastert, and Senator Frist, Congresswoman Pelosi, and all the Members of Congress who joined us today. I want to thank you for your hard work, and I want to thank you for your devotion to your constituents and to our country. I look forward to continuing to work with you, as we serve the American people.

Laura and I also want to thank all the families who are with us here for your extraordinary service and sacrifice. Public service puts great demands on our families and our country is grateful to you all.

Laura and I want to thank WETA and all tonight's performers, Tom Wopat and

Shirley Jones, Harolyn Blackwell, and Cartier Williams. You put on such a fantastic performance, and we're grateful.

Again, thank you all for coming. We hope you've enjoyed this evening. And may God bless your families, and may God continue to bless our great country.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:30 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to actor and singer Tom Wopat; actress Shirley Jones; actress and soprano Harolyn Blackwell; and dancer Cartier Williams. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 16.

## Remarks at the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast June 16, 2005

*Gracias, y sientese.* [Laughter] Thank you for the warm welcome. It's an honor to be here at the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast. Thanks for inviting me back. I understand this, like you understand this: America is founded on *los valores de fe y familia*. These are the values at the heart of the Hispanic American community. These are the values that enrich our Nation, and I am grateful.

Your good works and reverence bring compassion to our country and, more importantly, honor to the Almighty. This morning we come together to pray, to pray for God's help as we serve our fellow citizens.

Danny, thank you very much for the invitation and the introduction. I'm proud to be with a lot of the faith leaders from around our country. I saw my friend Luis

Cortes. It's good to see you again, Luis. I want to thank John von Seggern, who is the chairman of the Prayer Breakfast.

I want to thank the Members of the Congress who are here, Nancy Pelosi, Chris Cannon, Hilda Solis, Rahm Emanuel, Luis Fortuno. I want to thank you all for serving our country, and thank you for setting aside politics to come and honor the Almighty through prayer.

It's good to see my old buddy, former member of the Cabinet, Ridge. Tom Ridge is with us. Good to see Hector Barreto—he runs the SBA. Go ahead and pray, and then get back to work. It's good to see Don Powell, Gaddi—who runs the FDIC, by the way—Gaddi Vasquez is the Director of the Peace Corps.

And finally, I want to pay homage to the First Lady of Panama. I want to